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THE COMMON CAUSE
OF HUMANITY.

The Organ of the National Union of

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

NON-PARTY. ***Societies and Branches in the Union 602.*** **LAW-ABIDING.**

VOL. VI., No. 299.] FRIDAY, JANUARY 1, 1915. [PRICE 1D.
Registered as a Newspaper.

The N.U.W.S.S. is an association of over 52,000 men and women who have banded themselves together, under the leadership of Mrs. Henry Fawcett, for the purpose of obtaining the Parliamentary vote for women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men. At this great national crisis, however, they have for the time being suspended their political activities, in order to put themselves and their Union at the service of those who are organising the relief of distress caused by the war. They desire to help in the most effective way, by work rather than doles; to preserve the life of the race for the future by special care of mothers and young children; and generally to illustrate in their own lives the truth that the Suffragists' demand is for duties rather than for rights, and their ideal is the service of humanity. WILL YOU JOIN?

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Notes and News.

A War Council.

The Council Meeting on February 4th and 5th will be the first since the outbreak of the war, and it cannot fail to be one of the greatest importance to the National Union. We appeal to the Societies to make every effort to secure full representation and to send up delegates who have carefully studied the agenda and are prepared to stay the whole time. The decisions which the Council will make will be full of heavy responsibility and importance to the cause of the enfranchisement of women. No small engagement, no expense, should be allowed to stand in the way.

An International Congress.

At the meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Union, held on December 3rd, it was decided to ask Mrs. Chapman Catt to summon a Congress of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance in 1915. It will be remembered that the Congress was to have been held in Berlin. When this had to to be abandoned, it was still felt by many that a Congress should be held, but in a neutral country. It will be difficult, no doubt, but it will be immensely worth while for those who believe in the solidarity of women all the world over to meet in war as in peace, and declare, in war as in peace, "*La guerre contre la guerre.*" Our gallant soldiers, we say, are fighting to abolish militarism; we women, too, must do our share in abolishing militarism. For that we must understand each other, and for understanding it is necessary to meet.

Women as Non-Combatants.

The bombardment of Scarborough, Whitby, and the Hartlepools, on December 16th, has brought home to us the fact that non-combatants may suffer very severely in war, and women feel acutely that they have a part to play in war, not as "dumb driven cattle," but as fellows and comrades of men. Women would, of course, wish to adhere loyally to any scheme of defence laid down by the Government, but they are convinced that schemes for the defence of the non-combatant population would be better carried out with the intelligent co-operation of effective women, rather than by a summary and unintelligent rounding up of "women and children." A considerable amount of indignation is being felt by competent women who have had to stand by and see things bungled because men will either keep all the power in their own hands, or throw work on to the women without giving them the means to do it properly.

"The Best Cellars."

The wife of a doctor in one of the bombarded towns, shells falling at the door of the yard, writes: "We were so busy we had not time to be nervous. The wounded were brought to the house in trucks, and all the women folk of the house turned to and helped. We are all cheerful, and are determined to stay and do what we can. It is rather amusing to be invited to the best cellars, with two exits!" And this writer declares that she had bags ready packed to leave the house if it were actually knocked down. Nothing less, apparently, would dislodge them! That, we believe, is the spirit of the mass of women. It is a spirit deserving recognition. And we don't mean recognition by rolls of honour and such like; we mean the recognition of the valour and citizenship of woman, deserving of liberty with responsibility. When men have made a mess, they are obliged to come to us and ask us to wipe it up. It would be wiser if they asked us to help prevent the mess.

Postwomen.

It would be interesting to know what is the official objection to having postwomen in towns to deliver letters and parcels. It cannot be said that the work passes a woman's capacity either mental, moral, or physical. Yet in some urban areas the post offices are choked to the ceiling because of the shortage in male postmen owing to so many having gone to the front. All sorts of casual hands are being taken on for the work. Why not women?

Wanted, A Service Wives' Union.

The National Union has been giving especial attention lately to the provisions for the wives and widows and children of soldiers and sailors. As usual, we find that women are considered in diverse ways not according to their own interests or the interests of their families, or even of the soldiers and sailors, but according to the convenience of the Admiralty and the War Office and the Army Council. The women, in fact, have all the disadvantages of "paternal" government, and none of the advantages of discipline and comradeship which their men have. If these women are to be considered as part of a public service because they receive public money, then surely a responsible public depart-

SNA X

ment should deal with them, and this public department should have knowledge of women and girls and babies and homes and housekeeping. Can we say that the Army Council, or even the Select Committee, has this knowledge? What is wanted is a Departmental Committee of experienced women who shall co-opt suitable men to help them. The kind of experience we have in mind is first-hand experience of working-class conditions. Meanwhile, one feels that there is a great deal to be said for the effective organising of a self-governing Union of these women.

"A Sort of Patriotic Feeling."

One of the queerest paragraphs we have ever seen appeared in *The Daily Citizen*, of December 28th, concerning the work of the Employment Bureau of the National Union of Clerks. It runs :—

"On an average the Bureau is now filling six posts a day, and as a matter of fact there are more vacancies than the Union has candidates to offer. The figures show, however, that women clerks have been affected by unemployment three or four times as much as men. One reason is that employers are now filled with a sort of patriotic feeling, and are only employing as far as possible the unemployed men clerks."

A Voice from France.

The President of the French Union for Women's Suffrage has a fine article in the December number of *Jus Suffragii*, and we should like to quote a few lines to show how truly solidaire the Suffragist women are. "I had the feeling," she writes, "that *Jus Suffragii* had a function to fulfil. From all these reports made by women of different countries, of which some, alas! are at war with one another, there emanated a certain unity of thought and aspiration, a certain common ideal, in spite of the various national preoccupations of each one. This manifestation of the soul of woman is quite remarkable.

"Their state of mind shows the following characteristics :—

"1. The ardent and enthusiastic love of women for their country, which personifies their home, their affections, and the atmosphere in which they live.

"2. Desire for absolute devotion and moral and material support shown by each one for her country, under every imaginable form.

"3. Temporary putting aside of all special claim for women's rights.

"4. In spite of everything, positive and unanimous affirmation of the higher principle which is the *raison d'être* of feminism : 'Force shall not triumph over right.'

"5. The wish to act so that a final peace may issue from the monstrous European war. Some insist on future disarmament, others do not venture to insist on anything, but all dare to speak of peace, but without weakness and without showing fear of even a prolonged struggle. Not one shows cowardice or weakness on behalf of her country, and the present duty to be fulfilled in every form remains the dominating factor with each one."

From Austria.

Frau von Fürth writes from Vienna, "Although to-day, artificially stimulated, hatred may bring about the most horrible aberrations, we believe and hope that from the blood-soaked soil a better time must arise. The great and noble task of the International Women's Movement is to bring in this peaceful and kindly epoch. We women of the whole world, who were brought together by equal deprivation of rights, equal helplessness, are to-day sisters in equal mourning, equal suffering. The more intensely we love our own country, the more firmly must we stand together, the more convincedly must we swear to work unitedly with all the power that grows out of our bitter pains, that out of the chaos which now surrounds us the true civilisation may arise which alone can guarantee a lasting peace of the nations."

From Germany.

Frau Stritt writes from Berlin, where the Congress of 1915 had in happier days been planned, "Our motive is not merely the old pity for men's sufferings in the field, not merely sympathy of woman for woman in the fate of thousands of mothers, wives, sweethearts, and sisters, who have lost their dearest. Although all the depth and warmth of womanly feeling are still there, the driving force is now woman's feeling of citizenship which feels itself responsible for weal and woe of the whole community." From Munich and Hamburg and Nürnberg and Baden-Baden come also messages of friendship from women to "the women of all nations."

Mines and the Capture of Private Property at Sea.

Problems of War and Peace are discussed in THE COMMON CAUSE *in a series of articles by well-known writers. Contributors are left free to express their own opinions, as we believe it to be in the public interest that such questions should be freely discussed. The articles are all signed and must not be assumed to represent the official views of the N.U.W.S.S.*

There are three kinds of mines : the observation mine, which is anchored in a harbour or along a coast line, and can only be fired by an electric current from the shore ; the anchored automatic mine, which is attached to the bottom and explodes on contact ; and the floating automatic mine, which drifts freely and explodes on contact.

The first is no more than a peculiar sort of fixed artillery. The other two are obviously dangerous to neutrals as well as belligerents, and they are the subject of international regulation. Their special character was emphasised during the Russo-Japanese war, when the Eastern seas were sown by both combatants with floating mines, or anchored mines which broke loose, and for several years after the treaty of peace was signed, merchantmen and warships traversed those waters at their peril. Several ships were blown up, and the Chinese Delegates at the Hague Conference of 1907 complained that more than five hundred Chinese sailors and fishermen had lost their lives.

The British attitude towards these peculiarly devilish, because secret and undiscriminating weapons, has been influenced partly by regard for the interests of neutrals, partly by concern for our own interests. We suffer the most from unregulated mining of the seas, because we have the largest merchant marine, and in the event of war with our most probable adversary, that with whom we are now fighting, the shallow North Sea offers a specially favourable field for such a system. We have, therefore, always endeavoured to limit the use of mines. At the Conference of 1907 our representatives urged that unanchored contact mines should be forbidden, that contact mines should be forbidden which did not become harmless on breaking from their anchorage, that commercial blockade (which is contrived to shut out merchant ships only) should not be carried out by contact mines, that no mines should be laid by belligerents except in their own or their adversaries' territorial waters, except for the defence of fortified military parts, when they might be laid ten miles from the batteries, and that it was desirable that all contact mines should be constructed so as to become harmless after a reasonable period.

Various nations opposed these suggestions on various grounds. The smaller States were reluctant to abandon a powerful weapon of defence, and Germany, bearing the North Sea in mind no less than ourselves, asked for permission to lay contact mines in the whole theatre of naval warfare, "the stretch of sea on which an operation of war is or has just been carried on, or on which such an operation could take place consequent on the presence on the approach of the armed forces of the two belligerents." This would include in the events which have happened, not only the North Sea, but the Mediterranean, the South Pacific and Atlantic Oceans, and, indeed, everywhere where a German cruiser chose to go. Eventually, a Convention was drawn up, which represented a very unsatisfactory series of compromises. It was forbidden to lay contact mines which did not become harmless within one hour, or, if anchored, then immediately after breaking loose. It was forbidden to lay contact mines off the enemy's coast with the sole object of stopping commercial navigation, but as both Germany and France declined to be bound by this clause, they are at liberty to do what Germany at least has done with complete recklessness in the present war. It was agreed that provision should be made for anchored contact mines becoming harmless after "a limited time" had elapsed, and the Powers undertook to convert their existing stock of mines "as soon as possible," so as to conform with the requirements of the Convention. These last provisions were little more than empty forms, and whether Germany has ever complied with them nobody in this country can tell. The wanton spirit in which she laid mines off the coast of Ireland is evidence that she cares as little for the laws of war at sea as her bombardment of open towns shows that she cares for the laws of war by land.

The capture of private property at sea is a survival from ancient systems of warfare, when States endeavoured to inflict the greatest possible amount of injury upon the subjects of hostile States. In modern times, until Germany chose to reintroduce the barbaric method, States, in theory at least, make war upon each other. They destroy armed forces and munitions of war, but not private persons or their property. So far as private property on land, houses, furniture, machinery, jewellery, clothing, food, and the like, are concerned, it is generally

accepted that apart from the inevitable incidents of artillery fire, requisitions for the use of armies of occupation, and other military "necessities," it is a breach of international law for either a State or its individual subjects to injure or appropriate private property on land. But it remains perfectly lawful for a State to capture, and if it is impossible to bring it into port, to destroy a merchant ship and the whole of its cargo.

For the maintenance of this rule Great Britain is primarily responsible. The United States have, from their origin, urged the exemption of private property at sea from capture. In the Franco-Prussian war Prussia at first adopted the same attitude, but abandoned it, very naturally, when France took the British view. The United States and Italy have agreed between themselves to grant each other exemption, and at the first Hague Conference Germany proposed that all the Powers should agree to the same limitation of belligerent Powers. Great Britain strongly opposed, and Germany has since changed her own mind. Most international jurists support the American view, and many prominent Englishmen, including Lord Loreburn and Mr. F. W. Hirst, editor of *The Economist*, have severely criticised our Foreign Office. The present war has probably confirmed the Foreign Office and weakened, if not destroyed, the opposition to it.

It is argued by the advocates of change that change is in the line of general progress, that the injury of private persons is regarded with disapproval; that it is agreed already that it is barbarous to destroy goods in a warehouse, and that there is no essential difference between the goods in a warehouse and the goods on board ship. In Great Britain it is also argued that the abolition of the right of capture will enable the Powers to reduce their expenditure upon armaments, which are largely required for the purpose of protecting merchantmen. This argument is not convincing. The liability of merchantmen to capture may be, and has been, used both in Great Britain and Germany, to overcome the opposition of mercantile taxpayers, but it is very improbable that less money would be spent on naval armaments (except in respect of some not expensive cruisers) if merchantmen were exempted from capture, and if it were certain (as, after this war, it will not for a long time be certain) that the exemption would be recognised by belligerents. Navies are primarily maintained as a support to diplomacy, and, secondarily, as a means of keeping open military no less than commercial communications. Germany built her fleet so that she might be able to resist dictation by England, just as she built her army to be able to defy Russia. Out of the thousand and one psychological currents which run into the support of naval armaments, the fear of commercial loss is only one, and certainly not the predominant or decisive one. The substantial argument is not economic, but moral. We should not save much in money by abolishing capture at sea, but we might save much in moral strength.

It does not appear to me that the analogy between warfare by land and sea should be pressed. Private property on land consists largely of the prime necessities of life, without which non-combatants, including women and children, must perish in large numbers and at once. It is homes and larders that the Germans have destroyed in Belgium. But the captain of the *Emden* destroyed nothing but part of an insurance fund for all the damage that he did in the South Seas. There is not, in fact, the essential barbarity in capturing, or even (after removing the crew) in sinking a merchant ship, which there is in pillaging or burning a house, or shop, or farm. If then, there is some weighty military reason for destroying private property at sea, we may consider it without the discomfort which arises from the underlying feeling that, however profitable it may be in the worldly sense, it is morally wrong. War is a brutal and beastly business at best, and nothing will ever ennoble it. But the destruction of private property at sea is not so brutal and beastly as killing and mutilating an artillery horse, to say nothing of our fellow men, and there are many things in war which clamour for reform before this.

The argument which has always decided the attitude of our Foreign Office is that we are an island Power, that our enemies are generally, if not always, Continental, that we have in consequence no means of injuring them except our Fleet, and that apart from futile bombardments of coast towns (an essentially barbarous system of warfare) our Fleet can do nothing but drive their commerce from the sea. The war has shown how sound was this estimate of probabilities. We have been unable to invade Germany, but while our commerce has suffered little, hers has disappeared.

W. LYON BLEASE.

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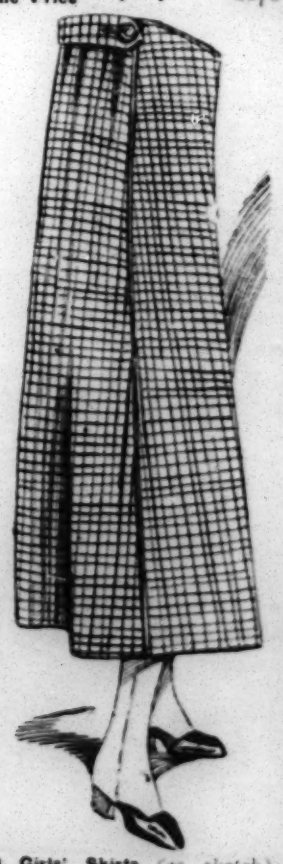

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A SUFFRAGIST NURSE IN POLAND.

HOSPITAL EXPERIENCES.

The following is an extract from a letter to the National Union of Trained Nurses from Miss Thurstan, now at Lodz, whose experiences in Belgium have already been related in THE COMMON CAUSE :—

"I am writing this at 4 a.m., having just finished the dressing, and it is nearly time to begin again. This is an absolute inferno, I never imagined anything like it even in my wildest dreams, the hospitals in the Crimea could not possible have been worse. But it is nobody's fault, simply the result of circumstances.

"This was a Girls' Day School, and it is now crammed with wounded men, lying on stone floors, either on filthy mattresses or on straw, with no sheets, and only one blanket each. There is no heating, as there is no coal, and it is frightfully cold. The men still have on their own shirts, which, though very dirty, cannot be washed. Water is very scarce, as it would be in a day-school. Washing is therefore done under great difficulties. There is only one towel in each ward.

"This is just a manufacturing town, and it is being taxed beyond its power. Every public building has been made into a hospital, until the railway communications are opened up, when the wounded will be sent away; meantime we are doing all we can, but there are not enough of us to care for them as we should like to do. There is plenty of meat, little bread, no butter, and no milk, so it will be a very good thing when they can be moved.

"For a week we have been heavily bombarded, shells are bursting all round us, most of the windows are broken. A man and two children were lying dead in the road in front of us this afternoon, and a poor old woman was brought in with both legs shattered. The cannons stopped for a bit yesterday, but have now begun again with renewed force. We have had to move all our wounded from the top floor on account of the shells. A shell burst in front of us in the street to-day, but neither of us were hurt. It is extraordinary how soon one gets used to it all.

"Now I am going to sleep in spite of the cannons. I would not have missed this for anything, but I do wish we could do more for these poor men."

"*P.S.—Later.*—I wrote this three days ago. Last night we were told to evacuate the hospital. We worked nearly all night, and got everybody into the Red Cross waggons. We were nearly dead! A Polish lady came and carried us off to her house, where I have finished this. I have had a hot bath in which I wallowed, and could not get out, it was so lovely! We have not been able to have one since we came to Lodz.

"We now belong to the 'Flying Corps,' that is, we are not stationary, but must be ready to go anywhere, do anything, at any hour, day or night, where most wanted. It is very nice to belong to it.

"The cannons are still going on as if they never meant to stop."

NEWS FROM ABROAD.

FRANCE.

Under the heading, "Les Heroines des Jours," *La Française* gives the names of a number of women, many of them Sisters of Mercy, who are organising Hospitals, devoting themselves to contagious patients, and carrying out their duties under bombardment. Others for months past have been tending the wounded at stations with untiring devotion. In the course of their labours one sister has been killed and one wounded.

GERMANY.

Precisely similar reports of the work of German women appear in *The California Woman's Bulletin*: "They have worked until exhausted without a thought of the deadly balls. One trained nurse, Sister Elfrida Scherhaus, has from the beginning of the war followed an East Prussian regiment of infantry, and shared all their fatigues in order to assist the surgeons right on the battlefield."

CALIFORNIA.

From the same bulletin we learn that "The Californian State Federation of Labour, at its recent Convention at Stockton, adopted a resolution that all patent rights on war equipment and ammunition should be acquired by the Government," and the bulletin appeals to Californian women to investigate this question and to strive to get the Government to take over the control and manufacture of all arms and armaments. It also points out the excellence of the new Californian laws, placed on the Statute Book on November 3rd, and the part that women had in placing them there. Among them is "The Red Light Abatement Act," which "will enable the citizens to rid the cities of commercialised vice."

THE FUTURE OF EGYPTIAN WOMEN.

The new Sultan of Egypt expressed himself as follows in the course of an interview with *The Times* Cairo correspondent :—

"If I can succeed in inspiring the people of Egypt with some of that civic spirit which the young nations of the British Empire have displayed, I shall be content. To reach that goal education is required —not mere book-learning, but social and moral training which men learn first from their mothers. Female education is what the country greatly needs, and if I am in some things a Conservative, I am a Liberal in this."

Correspondence.

A large amount of correspondence is unavoidably held over. It is necessary to remind our readers that there is no editorial responsibility for opinions expressed in the correspondence columns.

AN EDUCATIONAL POLICY.

MADAM,—May I express my cordial sympathy with your correspondent, who drew attention in THE COMMON CAUSE of December 18th to the immediate need for an educational policy.

In this connection, I should like, as a class leader of the Workers' Educational Association, to give you something of my personal experience this autumn. To take one of our Essex classes. The members met in the early summer, and drew up a syllabus of lectures on "Citizenship," but after war broke out, we decided to turn our attention to foreign questions. Since October we have devoted our time to Germany and Belgium, and have studied, as far as possible, their recent history, form of government, economic and social conditions. Harbutt Dawson's writings on Germany, and Rowntree's book on Belgium have been most helpful, while the Board of Trade Reports have given us really interesting information on working-class life in the two countries. After Christmas we hope to learn something of other of our European neighbours, so that ultimately we may be in a better position to discuss international affairs and the possibility of a settlement which shall secure a real and lasting peace.

I think it is impossible to over-emphasise the urgent need of political education to-day. There is a widespread demand for a more democratic control of foreign affairs, yet our ignorance of foreign affairs is proverbial. Surely this subject needs to be worked at. For example, we must know something of the history of the European peoples, of their national aspirations, of their difficulties—geographical, racial, political—before we can fruitfully discuss the terms of that peace which we hope it may soon be our duty to discuss.

Further, the mental atmosphere to-day does not conduce to a spirit of reasonableness. Many people will tell you they are too busy to read anything beyond the newspapers, and the psychological effect of this is obvious. The word "Germany" sets up an association of such ideas as "spies," "atrocities," "militarism." In our W.E.A. Classes we try to study the civilization of our neighbours. For the moment we forget both the "gallant ally" and the "alien enemy"; thus, unconsciously, I think, we are beginning to prepare for a better international feeling. Again, it intensifies the tragedy of to-day when one realises to how great an extent the European nations have of late years been fighting the common enemies of ignorance and disease.

The National Union carried on an educational campaign last year. Surely at this time we might profitably extend and develop that side of our work. I fully realise that the war has brought a multitude of new claims, but this is a time for thought as well as action—both are patriotic duties.

GRACE KEMEYS-TYNTE.

UNIFORMS FOR PATROLS.

MADAM,—I think the present agitation for a uniform for Women Patrols is based on a certain misconception, and I shall be grateful if you will allow me space to explain why I think so. Those who advocate it seem to me to have their eye, as Suffragists, on the woman's question. They appear to me to forget the girls. Naturally we desire every kind of recognition of women's work, especially pioneer work, but at this moment the question of how a uniform would affect the girls is more important than any recognition or assertion of the dignity of the patrols; indeed, it is fundamental to the success of the whole enterprise.

In a recent note, you remark that patrols are not so much detectives as police. I contend that at present they are actually neither the one nor the other. Moreover, that if you want to keep the girls in the streets, you must be careful that the patrols suggest to them neither (1) detectives, or they will shut up like a clam; (2) police, or they will take fright; or (3) rescue-workers, or a moral stigma will attach to a girl spoken to by a patrol. What the girls who are skylarking in the streets want to-day is none of these three, even of their own sex. They want a friend, one of whom they will say: "I knew you was for the girls."

After the friendship has been established, then the uniform by all means, but the uniform before the friendship will be just one more added to the tremendous difficulties the patrols have to contend with. The armlet is all that is necessary; the smaller the better. It is the patrol's protection against half-drunken men, it is her link with the police when necessary. But, if I may go further, may I say that the less patrols have to do with the police, the better; and not only with the police, but the police-courts. Their work is in the delicate region short of either. It is not so much the work of interfering to stop evil, as without interfering to *make their presence felt.* I venture to suggest that to do the least possible, to be quite inconspicuous, is the wise way in work of this kind, which has no tradition behind it, is still in the experimental stage, and in the process of forming principles on which such work will be carried on in the future.

L. HAY-COOPER.

[*Miss Hay-Cooper describes our own hopes for the patrols so exactly that it is difficult to see how we have arrived at conclusions so diverse. "It is not so much the work of interfering to stop evil as, without interfering, to make their presence felt." Exactly. This is why we want a uniform.*—ED., "C.C."]

THE CLOSING OF PUBLIC-HOUSES TO WOMEN.

MADAM,—I observe that THE COMMON CAUSE had two weeks ago a frontispiece illustrating the exclusion of women from public-houses before 11.30 a.m., and I gather from this, and from other expressions, that you deprecate their exclusion. Will you tell me why?

Having been for many years a member of the N.U.W.S.S., I feel that I ought to understand the selective mind of the Society, as expressed in its organ. I fear that my question may show me as a stupid or very ignorant person; but I will risk that, in the hope that your views on this subject may be made clear to me.

It would seem that you cannot be criticising the Government's action merely on account of its high-handedness, for you have suggested, I think, that the State should itself take over the public-houses, and turn them into more comfortable places of resort, where non-alcoholic drinks could also be obtained. This would be an admirable measure, but it might appear high-handed if carried out immediately.

So the objection to the present regulation must be something else, and I think it may possibly lie in the fact that, while men may, if they please, get drunk before 11.30, women, by a hasty and ill-considered piece of legislation, are denied the opportunity. If that is so, I should like to know is it because it is a good thing to be in a public-house that we protest against the exclusion of women, while men enjoy this benefit? Or is it that, whether it be good or bad, or even if we agree that public-house before 11.30 a.m. is probably bad for the women who go there, for the children who are at home, still it is the freedom that we want—freedom for evil as well as for good—in the same measure that men enjoy it? There is, of course, a good deal to be said for that.

Some years ago, our Government, by a piece of quite partial legislation, similar to the present, forbade women to work in mines, and this tyrannical and one-sided regulation has from time to time raised storms of protest. Why should not women destroy their bodies if men may? Here, I feel sure, it is the freedom we want, freedom to injure our bodies if we like, freedom to get drunk, freedom to ill-use our children, freedom if we choose to take our own lives. And, one by one, these freedoms are being taken from us. It is time we protested even more loudly.

The vote I want, because, on the whole, I think it is a good thing for women to take a direct share in the government of their country. I feel I want the freedom of the vote because it is good for the whole community that I should have it. But all these other freedoms, we want them because. . . . Will THE COMMON CAUSE please tell me why we want them?

MARGARET OLIVIER.

[*We object to the selection of one sex and one class for restriction in a matter which concerns both sexes and all classes. The selection of the sex which, in the matter of intemperance, is notoriously the less guilty of the two, cannot but create the impression that there is a double standard of morals in temperance, as well as in chastity; in short, that intemperance, though wrong in women, is not wrong in men. This is why we believe the arrangement (not "legislation," as our correspondent supposes) to be hasty and ill-considered.*—ED., "C.C."]

UNEMPLOYED PROFESSIONAL WOMEN.

MADAM,—In view of the distress, caused by the war, to the educated woman worker, the Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association has now opened a Hostel at 9, Roland Gardens, South Kensington, for the reception of ladies who are either being trained or are seeking employment.

Guests will be maintained free of charge for a period of one month, at the end of which time, if no employment has been found, their case will be reconsidered. All applicants must be of British birth, and must provide two personal references.

All applications must be made in the first place in writing to the Secretary of the Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association, 48, Dover Street, Piccadilly, W., who will forward a form of application to be filled in.

MAUD SELBORNE (President).

C. & U. W. F. A.

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Linens of every description. Illustrated Price Lists Free to any Address.
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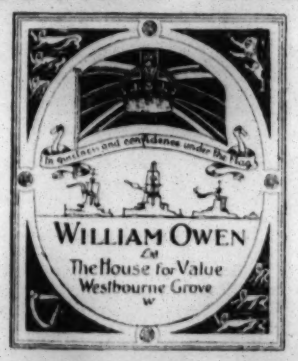

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LITERARY CONTRIBUTIONS *should be addressed to the Editor,* THE COMMON CAUSE, *2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C. The Editor, however, accepts no responsibility for unsolicited matter, and no manuscripts will be returned unless accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope.*

ALL BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS *to be addressed to The Manager,* THE COMMON CAUSE, *2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C., and all* ADVERTISEMENTS *must reach the Office not later than first post on Tuesday. Advertisement Representative, S. R. Le Mare.*

NOTICE.—*This paper is obtainable at newsagents and bookstalls by midday on Friday. If any difficulty is found in obtaining it locally, please communicate with The Manager,* THE COMMON CAUSE.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies being a body which exists to obtain the enfranchisement of women, holds no official view upon any other topic. Opinions expressed upon other subjects must not be regarded as necessarily those of the Union.

1915.

The New Year dawns in tragedy and storm in this year of grace 1915. And yet we take heart to look forward to the future with something like hope in our hearts. No movement has suffered more than ours from war, for movements that are world-wide in character must have their peculiar sense of loss above and beyond the paralysis which seizes all great causes in time of war, except the one overwhelming cause of national defence. International relations are broken off, and internationalism seems dead. And to us this is a tragedy, because the universal character of the Woman's Movement—the fact that the wind was moving over the surface of the waters everywhere—was to us at once a source of strength and a perpetual inspiration. We were strengthened in our own work by victories elsewhere: we were inspired to greater efforts by the knowledge that our victory must react on the women's cause in distant lands.

And now all this seems lost, but is not really so. Every international movement, in spite of failure, has drawn together the peoples of the world, helped them to understand each other, and made more terrible the sudden catastrophe which has overwhelmed us all. And it is good that people are more horrified than they have been before at the mere fact of war. That war should still be possible has shocked the civilised world. That there are people who actually defend it, not as a last, grim, terrible necessity, but as a thing good in itself, seems to most of us a hideous caricature of international morals. Nearly all of us are looking and hoping for a means of settling international disputes which will make wars ever less and less frequent. And yet it is not so very long ago that every one took the necessity of war as a matter of course, and read without a quiver that no "precedent injury or provocation" is necessary to a just war, since "there is no question but a just fear . . . though there be no blow given, is a lawful cause of war"; and, indeed, that it is well "for a State to have those laws or customs which may reach forth unto them just occasions (as may be pretended) of war"! How far have we travelled since so prudent a philosopher as Bacon could calmly write down such words! And yet the most of our travelling, probably, has been done in very recent years. The feeling that war must at last be done away, the hope that even this war may be "to end war," and that is one reason why it must be carried through to the end—this is new. And from all this, we take hope. Not in vain—though now it seems vain—have the nations been drawn together in international movements, since every common sympathy and hope and effort makes the revolt against war more real. If, after this war, we set to work with determination and hope to make wars less frequent till at last they wholly cease, it will be largely because we are realising now, while the war is going on, how terrible it is. And we realise it because of all European peoples have felt and hoped and toiled for, together, in the past. In that great work of union the Woman's Movement has played a great part, and no iota of it is really wasted. Internationalism is not dead, nor can it die. In that belief, we turn to face the New Year.

IN CASE OF INVASION.

Problems of War and Peace are discussed in THE COMMON CAUSE *in a series of articles by well-known writers. Contributors are left free to express their own opinions, as we believe it to be in the public interest that such questions should be freely discussed. The articles are all signed and must not be assumed to represent the official views of the N.U.W.S.S.*

There is evidently a good deal of uneasiness on the part of male civilians as to the part they are expected to play in the event of invasion. Several public pronouncements on the subject have been made. The Lord Chancellor told the House on November 26th, that the subject was engaging the attention of the Committee of Imperial Defence, which had already made a report to the War Office. Since then the Lord Lieutenants of two counties have issued general instructions to civilians, of which the general purport is that every man who can possibly enlist should do so, and that those who cannot should, above all, refrain from acts of aggression. Assurances are, however, given that there will be plenty of work found for male non-combatants if they will apply to their local Emergency Committees. Among these functions is to be that of preventing panic among "women, children and old persons." This is the sole reference I have seen to women, and it seems probable that it accurately represents the ideas of the authorities as to the part that we are to play. We are to try, if we can, not to get into a panic. If our town is bombarded, those of us who are prosperous enough to have cellars, are to hide in them, and the rest are to stay in their homes until, if flight becomes necessary, some elderly male civilians or policemen can be told off to herd us together and direct our removal out of the zone of danger.

Are the women of the National Union and of the other Suffragist organisations satisfied to accept this rôle? If they are not, there is no use waiting to say so until the event, if it ever happens, is upon us. To try to thrust ourselves at the last moment into a scheme of defence in which every male has already been allotted his part, would merely be to embarrass the authorities unfairly. If we want to claim our part, we must do it now. No one suggests that women shall take their place as combatants in the fighting line. Whatever some of us may wish in our hearts, public opinion being what it is, such a proposal would be obviously impracticable. But in so extreme a national emergency as invasion, if there are any functions which can usefully be performed by women, they have a right to claim those functions, even if it should mean breaking down the masculine tradition that always and under all circumstances the lives of women, however old and free from ties and willing to give themselves, must be protected at the cost of the lives of men, however young and full of promise and necessary to their families and to the country.

There are a few plain facts that can scarcely be denied:—First, the improbable sometimes happens, and however unlikely, invasion on a great scale is a contingency that must be faced. Secondly, if it occurs, every capable fighting man will be needed for the primary duty of defence, and such men ought not to be wasted in performing duties which could be delegated to others. Among such duties are many which ought to be well within the capacity of women who are accustomed to organisation and to discipline, and are willing to take risks. For example, there is the work already alluded to, of preventing panic among the helpless part of the population, and of arranging for their transport, if necessary, to places of safety. Last year's pilgrimage was not a bad preparation for such a task, and the machinery of Active Service Groups, Women Citizen's Associations, Ward Leaders, &c., already existing in many centres, might be the nucleus of a suitable organisation. Even as auxiliaries of the fighting forces, there are tasks that seem suited to women, if once the idea could be got rid of that they must not be exposed to danger. Besides all the branches of Red Cross work, there is the cooking of food, the making of fires, the washing and mending of clothes, the carrying of hot food and drink to the men in the trenches, the collection of supplies for our men, and the destruction or hiding of supplies likely to fall into the hands of the enemy, and the carrying of despatches by motor or motor-cycle.

Of course there are people who will sneer at the idea of women doing these things within the fighting lines. But the truth is that in all countries and ages, women whose country was invaded have done similar things on their own initiative in an unorganised fashion. The wife of a man of the V.N.R. who was at Antwerp, told me that he believed that he and some of his company in the trenches had been saved from madness by the Belgian women, who brought them water on their heads through a storm of shell and bullets. The militant Suffragists have at least demonstrated the courage and endurance of women under physical suffering. I believe that many National Union women would welcome eagerly the opportunity of proving that they are as ready as the militants to face danger, when their consciences approve the occasion.

If they are to be given this opportunity, the first thing to be done is clearly to come to some understanding with the authorities as to what work women shall be allowed to do in case of invasion; the second thing is to organise and train women for that work, either through some existing body, such as the Women's Volunteer Reserve (described in last week's issue of THE COMMON CAUSE), or through some new machinery. Probably, however, the first part of the task will be the harder. The backbone of the difficulty would be broken if the authorities could be forced to recognise that, at least at times of grave national peril, women, if they deliberately choose to do so, have as much right to risk their lives in the service of their country as men. That fundamental principle once conceded, the exact form which their efforts should take should be determined in consultation with, and should be carried out in loyal subordination to, the constituted authorities.

E. F. RATHBONE.

NEED FOR RECREATION ROOMS FOR GIRLS.

In connection with the useful work that is being done by the Women Patrols—organised by the N.U.W.W.—it is quite necessary, in order to bring about really practical and lasting results, that there should be recreation rooms established at every centre where the Patrols are at work, to afford a counter attraction to the young girls who are found loitering about in the dark streets. Many are the sad and degrading sights and sounds to be seen and heard in these streets, but none so hideous in the eyes of the Women Patrols as the sight of these little more than children who are becoming demoralised—even though no actual harm come to them—by the close contact with evil. As a policeman said sadly to a Patrol in the course of a friendly talk, "A few nights of walking up and down in these parts cannot fail to take the innocence from a girl, however young and inexperienced." At all costs, these girls must be given an alternative to the streets, and, therefore, some place must be provided for them to which they can be invited by the patrols when they meet them on their beat. We have got to realize that a time of war, such as this, while bringing to the surface many splendid qualities, does also create very special temptations to the young of both sexes, and it is these young ones that our Women Patrols are out to help.

Bright, attractive recreation rooms, where the young men and women can meet together in decent surroundings for social intercourse are the very best means of protecting them from these temptations, and will satisfy the youthful and very natural demand for pleasure.

At present, there are two such recreation rooms organised by Miss Beaver (Organiser of the Women's Patrol Committee), and others are opening in the New Year. Of the two now running, the one near the Crystal Palace is more or less of a social club, open to both men and women; the other, close to Waterloo-road, is for girls only. My experience is chiefly with the latter, where the work is most promising, and the fact that girls, who at first were rather reluctantly drawn in, come again and again is a sure proof of the success of the venture.

The room is open in the evenings from 7-10. A small band of voluntary helpers are responsible for the amusements and the occupations of each evening; for instance, the members of THE COMMON CAUSE Staff have undertaken to give the Thursday evenings programme. Another evening is devoted to First Aid, with a nurse as instructor, and the formation of a corps of girl cadets, who will be instructed in drilling and marching, is foreshadowed in the New Year.

In order to increase the number of our rooms and to make them still more attractive and useful, we want funds and we want more helpers. We want helpers to teach Swedish drill, dancing, and singing, and we also need accompanyists. Who will offer themselves to further this patriotic work? Offers of money and personal service will be gladly welcomed, and can be sent to THE COMMON CAUSE Office.

KATHERINE M. HARLEY.

The

Winter Sale

is in progress at

The Regent St. House of Peter Robinson Ltd.

IN their thought for others so many ladies have denied themselves the "luxuries" of dress that our choicest and most exclusive models remain unsold. We do not intend, however, to carry these garments over to next season, so have reduced their prices to the level of moderately-priced, ordinary goods. The Bargains available throughout the House will beat those offered at any Sale on record —in Lingerie, Blouses, Costumes and Mantles the values are specially worthy of note.

R.S. MAY

R.S. "THORNTON"

(As Sketch above.)

A very inexpensive Coat for evening wear, in black satin, lined throughout soft silk, and interlined.

Sale Price 35/-

R.S. "MAY"

(As Sketch on left.)

A Smart Fur Coat in Mole Squirrel, lined with good quality silk.

Sale Price £5 . 5 . 0

Also another Coat with a belt at back.

Sale Price £5 . 15 . 6

JURNA CORSETS.

Don't forget that the Jurna Corset is the Corset **you** need— and that you can buy them now at Sale Prices!

Peter Robinson's of Regent Street

A MESSAGE FROM WORKING-WOMEN TO WORKING-WOMEN.

The Women's International Council of Socialist and Labour Organisations (British Section) has sent out a message to "their sisters of other nations" about the war. It includes this passage :—

"Women, shut out as they are from full participation in political action, cannot bear the same responsibility as men, when we come to weigh up the causes for this struggle. But though an equal share of responsibility is not theirs, the burden of the war itself falls upon them with even greater weight. The Labour and Socialist women of this country will work unceasingly to bring about a peace which shall be lasting—a peace that shall bring with it the hope that this shall be the last war, that secret diplomacy shall end, and a United States of Europe based on free and equal citizenship of rich and poor, and of men and women, shall emerge from the wreckage of to-day. They look forward to a time when once again working women of all nations shall send their messages of fraternal greeting freely across the frontiers, and when the unity of the international movement, which for the moment seems broken, shall be bound again in the indissoluble bond wrought by the willing co-operation of free nations."

"EAGER HEART" IN EAST ANGLIA.

Under the personal direction of Dr. Jane Walker, whose name is familiar to members of the National Union, two fine performances of the Christmas Mystery Play, "Eager Heart," were given on December 18th and 19th, at the East Anglian Sanatorium, Nayland. The reverence and simplicity which are the dominant notes of the play were emphasised in the series of pictures which show the youthful Eager Heart sheltering poverty in the guise of weary travellers, and finding that unawares she has entertained divinity beneath her humble roof-tree.

The music from Bach's Christmas Oratorio, which is a feature of "Eager Heart," was finely rendered by an invisible choir and orchestra which included, besides members of the staff, several young musicians from London. The smoothness and finish with which the Pastoral Symphony, the "Gloria," and the fine old hymns and carols were given bore witness to the thoroughness and the enthusiasm of the Conductor, Dr. Jane Walker. At both performances the hushed and occasionally rapt silence of the audience was a high tribute to the devotional spirit of the play and its interpreters.

One of the visitors from London present at the Saturday afternoon performance was Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D., President of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

In connection with the play a sale of Christmas gifts and the work of the children in the Sanatorium Schools and of the patients at Maltings Farm Sanatorium was held, the novel toys showing that a good beginning has been made in the toy-making industry at Nayland.

A REAL CHILDREN'S PLAY.

There was a large audience at the Little Theatre on Boxing Day to welcome back Mrs. Dearmer's play, "The Cockyolly Bird," which will be given there every afternoon during the holidays. It was an enthusiastic audience too; but then no one can help following with the greatest interest the exciting adventures of Kit, the little boy who is quite sure geography "isn't real." It takes a great deal to convince him that it is real. But of course he cannot help believing in it after he has travelled to the North Pole and Japan, and a Cannibal Island inhabited by most realistic cannibals—almost too realistic, in fact, for some of the younger members of the audience on Saturday, especially when it seemed for one terrible moment as if Kit or the Cockyolly Bird, or Jum Jum, the little black doll, was going to be roasted alive to provide a dinner for the King of the Cannibals! Fay Lilmar once again makes a delightful Kit, while Dorothy Manville as the Cockyolly Bird, and Roy Lilmar as the Teddy Bear, are excellent, as are indeed all the others, both "toys" and "real people." The music by Martin Shaw is charming, and the whole play, so brightly written and acted that there is not a dull moment from beginning to end, is, above all, what it claims to be—"a children's play."

THE QUEEN'S WORK FOR WOMEN FUND.

Trade Transference.

The Central Committee is endeavouring to prevent unemployment as well as to reduce it. In Manchester, for example, 31,169 women who are employed in the dressmaking trade always suffer through seasonal slackness. Many of these are treadle machinists, and during the war will be trained as power machinists, for whom there is a large demand at present, in order to cope with the army clothing contracts. The training is completed in four weeks, during which time the women will be paid 10s. a week, while, when trained, they will be able to earn a weekly wage of not less than 16s.

Training for City Typists.

A Polytechnic for training unemployed City women-workers has been opened at Bridewell House, E.C., and already fifty have been chosen for a free commercial training, during which time they will receive a maintenance grant of 10s. a week, and their fares will be paid up to 2s. 6d. per week. Only workers who were employed in the City before the war are eligible for the training.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS and mention THE COMMON CAUSE when ordering goods.

London Society for Women's Suffrage

(National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies)

A FEW OF THE SOCIETY'S ACTIVITIES.

1

2

1. THE EALING BRANCH'S BELGIAN HOSTEL.

(This holds seventy inmates. It is one of seven under the auspices of the Society.)

2. GIRLS MAKING HOT-BOX COOKERS

in the North London Work-room in connection with the Society's Women's Service Scheme, under the direction of Miss Clementina Black.

(5/6 each, from 734, Holloway Road, N.)

3. THE SOCIETY'S MOTOR AMBULANCE.

Accepted by the War Office and now at the Front. A bed has also been given to the new King George Military Hospital.

3

4. THE BIMBO TOYS.

Made in the Bee Toymakers' Work-rooms in connection with the Society's Women's Service Scheme.

(12/-, 5/6, 4/6, at 58 Victoria Street, S.W.)

5. THE PADDINGTON BRANCH'S WOMEN'S CLUB.

The first Club for Soldiers' and Sailors' Wives opened in London since the beginning of the War. One of nine carried on by the Society.

4

5

Notes from Headquarters.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.
President: Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D.

Hon. Secretaries:
Miss K. D. Courtney.
Miss C. E. Marshall (Parliamentary).
Miss Emily M. Leaf (Press).
Miss Evelyn Atkinson (Literature).

Hon. Treasurer:
Mrs. Auerbach.

Secretary:
Miss Crookenden.

Offices: Parliament Chambers, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.
Telegraphic Address—Voiceless, London. Telephone Number—1960 Victoria.

Public Meeting.

The Public Meeting to be held in connection with the Annual Council will take place on Friday, February 5th, at the Kingsway Hall, at 8 p.m. Speakers will be announced later.

Parliamentary Department.

I am much obliged to all those Secretaries who have sent in prompt replies to the circular about Police Surveillance of Soldiers' and Sailors' wives. A second circular will be issued on this subject shortly.

Catherine E. Marshall.

Professional Women's Patriotic Service Fund.

The first Committee Meeting will be held shortly. Some donations have already been received for the fund; further donations, and all applications for help, should be sent to the National Union Office.

Press Report.

Since the beginning of the war many of the London papers have shown a marked interest in the work which the National Union is now doing. Among these special mention may be made of *The Evening Standard*, which has frequently published long articles on the activities of the Union. Great interest has also been shown by several papers in the Professional Women's Patriotic Service Fund, a scheme inaugurated by the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies for the help of professional women.

Contributions to the General Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged since November 1st, 1914	131	12	0
Received from December 12th to December 21st, 1914.			
SUBSCRIPTIONS.			
Miss Dillwyn	1	0	0
Miss L. Wills	1	0	0
Miss I. O. Ford	2	0	0
Dr. Garrett Anderson	5	0	0
Miss E. M. C. Druce	1	1	0
Madame Cantamessa		5	0
Miss A. J. Murrell		3	0
Mrs. James Ward	1	0	0
Miss D. Matthews		2	6
Miss I. M. Oswald		2	0
Mrs. Tansley		5	0
Miss V. Garrard		1	0
Miss Julia Kennedy	2	2	0
Miss Nancy Fleming		10	0
Madame Hamélius		5	0
Miss U. St. Clair		2	6
Miss C. C. Lyon	5	0	0
Mrs. Hinchley		2	6
Miss H. E. Teasdel		1	0
Miss B. Paine		2	6
AFFILIATION FEE.			
Brecon W.S.S.		5	0
	£152	2	0

Active Service Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged	3,257	3	6
Miss Gertrude Sotheran ...	2	0	0
Mr. and Mrs. Percy Harris ...	5	5	0
Miss E. E. Wheelwright ...		2	0
Mrs. Francis Storrs		10	6
Miss A. W. Cooke	2	2	0
Miss Julia Kennedy	3	3	0
Miss Nancy Fleming		10	0
West Stanley W.S.S.	1	0	0
Hereford W.S.S.	5	0	0
Miss K. B. Brereton	2	2	0
Madame Hamélius		4	6
Miss C. C. Lyon	5	0	0
Mrs. Middleton	1	0	0
Miss Maud Morin (Fourth Donation)	2	0	0
Miss Beatrice M. Matthewman (Thirteen Weekly Donations)		13	0
Miss Rose E. Stevenson ...		10	0
Miss Inez de Reyes (Second Donation)		10	0
Miss J. M. Evans (Fourth Monthly Donation)		2	6
Mrs. Thompson		2	6
At 50, Parliament Street—			
Sale of Doll given by Miss Reynolds	2	0	0
Mrs. Wade Earp	1	0	0
Mrs. Pollock		10	0
Miss Jarvis	1	0	0
Miss M. O'Brien (Lucknow) Second Donation	2	0	0
Miss M. O'Brien (Scottish Women's Hospital)	2	0	0
Miss Edith L. Willis (Scottish Women's Hospital)	5	0	0
Miss Maud Milman		10	0
Mrs. Sanger	2	0	0
Anonymous	10	0	0
Mrs. Warmington		5	0
Mr. Frank Mountain		10	0
Mr. and Mrs. Walford Common (Scottish Women's Hospital)	10	0	0
Miss K. D. Courtney and Miss Kemy-Tynte (Scottish Women's Hospital)	3	0	0
	£3,328	15	6

Some Useful Pieces of Work Done by our Societies.

Bournemouth.—Members are busy working for soldiers, Belgians, and our own poor. Also work has been given out to needy women. A useful piece of work is the formation of conversation classes for Belgians

East Grinstead Society lent its club-room to officers of the R.A.M.C. of the London Brigade, when passing through the town. Members have been engaged in work on Relief Committees, in the S. and S. F. A., in looking after Belgian refugees, working parties, V. A. D. nursing at a temporary Red Cross hospital in the town, &c.

What Some of Our Societies are Doing.

GLASGOW.

The Glasgow Society has inaugurated Clubs for soldiers' and sailors' wives in some of the poorer divisions of the city. One of these is open daily from two till ten—a cheerful room in a dreary district of the city, furnished almost entirely with gifts from generous members, even to a piano. The women can come in and out at a charge of ½d. a day, and can get cheap refreshments, the papers to read, and note-paper to write to their husbands at the front. There are toys for the babies that *must* come. The wicker chairs with their bright cushions, the coloured rugs on the floor, and a most generous supply of pictures in white frames (the gift of a member who is the President of the Kyrle Society), make the room look most homely.

In the two other centres we have not yet been able to open every day, as suitable rooms at a moderate rent are difficult to get. At one of these weekly clubs the attendances have been 48, 50, 87, and 105 respectively, and at the other we reached last week 199. Here, too, the women read the papers and chat, but music and songs and short talks are the chief items, songs from the audience as well as from the helpers. Some of the women have lovely voices, and all are fond of joining in the choruses. We like to keep them till the stroke of ten, and at one club we have dancing the last half-hour, and are kept busy towards the end with orders for soup at 1d. a bowl.

Members of the Society have come forward splendidly with donations in money and kind, and personal help. Before starting these clubs we consulted the local Presidents of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association, and the majority cordially welcomed the idea, though unable to do anything themselves. In each locality where we have started clubs, the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association have distributed our leaflets through their associates. There is not the least doubt that the clubs, even the imperfect weekly ones, are highly appreciated by those who attend, and fill a real need for harmless recreation, a need only rather more felt at the present, but always existent. The Scottish Christian Social Union, and many of the churches, have clubs for women and girls, and the former are also starting clubs specially for soldiers' and sailors' wives, but one has only to take a walk through some of the dreary streets on a Saturday evening, when every other house seems a shining gin palace, to realise there is room for as many counter attractions to the public-house as there are public-houses. We have been first in the field with these clubs in Glasgow.

The Glasgow Society still continues to run the Exchange for Voluntary Workers at the offices, 202, Hope Street, and has now become quite a recognised centre of usefulness. Six hundred and eighty-eight offers of help have been registered since the opening on August 27th—239 visitors have been supplied to the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association, and workers have been sent to the Red Cross, the Charity Organisation Society, Belgian Relief, the News Boys' League, and the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. Other existing organisations have also applied for workers, and have been most grateful for the assistance given. As an Information Bureau the Exchange has further proved its usefulness, many callers having come seeking information which has been given from the Press Cuttings filed since the war began.

Large numbers of mufflers, socks, body belts, cardigan jackets, mittens, cuffs, cigarettes, matches, tobacco, &c., have been sent through the Exchange to the Troops, to the Fleet and the Mine-sweepers, besides a large number of fearnought gloves to Destroyers' crews. Clothes of all kinds have also been sent to the Belgian Relief Committee. A lady having offered to send in plum puddings for a Scottish Regiment a letter was sent to the papers asking for contributions of plum puddings, and as a result three packing cases were sent off containing plum puddings, sweets, Scotch buns, &c., in good time for Christmas. Five cases containing suitable things for the Scottish Women's Hospital were also sent to the Scottish Federation early in December, and things still continue to come in.

At the request of Miss Younger, of the Labour Exchange, the Exchange for Voluntary Workers acts as a depôt for material which is sent in by ladies, and given out to paid workers supplied by the Labour Exchange. Quite a number of women have in this way been kept supplied either with knitting or sewing.

Infant Relief Work.

The Society hopes to begin this important work early in the New Year in two divisions in Govan handed over to them by the Medical Officer of Health. A Branch of the Infant Health Visitors' Association has been formed, with a President, Vice-President, and two Hon. Secretaries and a Committee of over twenty visitors. Rooms have been taken for the consultations, and arrangements are also being made to have a nursery, lectures and cooking lessons for the mothers, and, if found necessary, a restaurant for nursing and expectant mothers.

Portsmouth.

The Portsmouth Branch of the N.U.W. Suffrage Society at a members' meeting passed the following resolution:—

"That this meeting of the members of the Portsmouth National Union of Women's Suffrage Society protests against the placing of soldiers' wives under police supervision." It also protests against the manner in which the "Defence of the Realm Act" has been used in Cardiff to prohibit certain women frequenting the streets between the hours of 7 p.m. and 8 a.m., and the trial of women under this Order by martial law. This society believes, if it is necessary for national defence to enforce these regulations, then the national conscience should demand that it is equally the duty of the Citizens' Committees to see that the women affected have relief for food and lodging without any interference with their personal liberty.

The N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospital.

The French unit of the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospital is already hard at work now at the Abbaye de Royaumont, and we expect soon to hear the same from the Serbian unit, which is bound for Uskub. The Serbian Government has most gladly accepted this unit, and will, it is expected, provide it with accommodation and maintenance. The equipment taken, whilst equal in quality to that of the French unit, has been made larger in quantity, since the impoverished state of the country to which it is bound will doubtless make the replenishment of stores a difficult matter.

The great need, however, is for money, and still more money. Prices of coal, petrol, and provisions in Eastern France have, we understand, risen enormously, and there is no doubt that the French unit will be a very heavy tax on our resources.

From Calais we hear that Dr. Phillips is now working, as well as Dr. Alice Hutchison and ten nurses, with the famous Belgian, Doctor Depage, whom the Queen of the Belgians has specially asked to undertake duty there. Typhoid is the foe against which they are fighting, and the ten nurses are kept hard at work. We are sending out to them a motor ambulance next week, but the upkeep of this and of the three cars at the Abbaye de Royaumont is a very serious item in our expenditure. Who will help to maintain these four cars, and others which have been kindly offered, and which we could send out were we assured of the wherewithal to keep them? Our Treasurer, Mrs. Laurie, Red House, Greenock, will most gratefully accept any gifts in money sent for our hospitals. Three of our Allies, France, Belgium, and Serbia, are being helped by us, and surely everyone will wish to join in this effort towards "the healing of the nations."

ALICE CROMPTON.

FURTHER LIST OF DONATIONS RECEIVED.

	£	s.	d.
To December 19th, 1914—			
Forward as per List	6,588	1	0
Scottish Association of Medical Women per Dr. Alexandra B. Lothian, Hon. Sec.	15	0	0
Glenfarg W.S.S. per Miss Seaton	5	0	
Miss Sarah Davidson	5	0	
Dr. Jean M. F. Marshall (towards Scott. Assoc. Med. Women's donation)	10	0	0
Misses Barber	1	0	0
Miss Ella Burbridge	1	0	
Alloa W.S.S. per Miss Blackwood, Hon. Treas.	3	0	0
"Borderer" Southend-on-Sea	5	0	
Mrs. Rees	5	0	
Miss H. B. Mill	10	6	
Mrs. A. E. Bennett	1	0	
Miss Widnell	2	0	
Miss Cudworth	1	0	0
Miss J. W. Scott	2	0	0
Mrs. F. Scott	1	1	0
"S.M.B." Hendon	2	6	
Castle-Douglas W.S.S. per Mrs. Campbell, Hon. Treas. (To name a bed)	34	0	0
Miss K. T. Sloan	2	2	0
Exmouth W.S.S. per Miss Betallach, Hon. Treas. (2nd donation)	10	6	
Miss M. Lewis	1	0	0
Mrs. E. B. Hinmens	5	0	0
The Girls of Harold Road County School (West Ham) per Miss Sinclair (for comforts)	3	0	0
Miss J. C. Miller	1	1	0
"Anon." Kelso	1	1	6
Miss Dora Wright	10	0	
Miss Cotton per Miss Dora Wright	3	0	
Mrs. M. H. Smith	10	0	
"F.L.M." Brighton	5	0	
Burton-on-Trent W.S.S. per Miss Macgregor, Hon. Sec.	1	0	0
Miss E. Newling and Miss J. Bendalack	2	0	
Hereford W.S.S. per Hon. Treas., Miss E. B. Hancock	10	15	6
London W.S.S. per Hon. Treas., Miss Graves (to name a Bed for 6 months	25	0	0
Dr. Eliz. Gilchrist, Greenock, per Dr. A. B. Lothian, Hon. Treas. Scott. Asso. Med. Women	5	0	0
"Margaret Isobel"	1	0	
Miss Chrissie Silver	1	0	
Mrs. McMurdo	2	0	
Miss J. S. Kippen	2	6	
"Anon." Haslemere	10	6	
Largs W.S.S. per Miss Paton, Hon. Sec.	2	0	0
West Herts. W.S.S. per Mrs. Wright, Hon. Treas.	2	2	0
Mrs. E. R. Harris	2	0	0
Edinburgh W.S.S. further donation per Mrs. Wilson, Hon. Treas.: Mrs. Nicol, £1, Mrs. Stewart, 2s. 6d., Miss M. Nairn, 10s., Mrs. and the Misses Pagan, £1, Miss Begbie, 10s., Miss Pressley Smith, 5s., Miss Lindsay Jardine, 2s. 6d., Miss G. Jardine, 5s., Miss Alice Law, 10s., Miss L. M. Gordon, 10s., Miss Abbott, 5s., Miss Jeffrey, £1, Miss Loudon, £1, Dr. Katherine Clarke, £2 2s., A Friend, 2s. 6d. (for France), John Tod, Esq., 2s. 6d. (for Servia)	9	7	0
Miss F. Henry	2	2	0
Nairn W.S.S. For "Nairnshire" Bed, raised by Flag Days in Nairn, £17 19s., Cawden, £5 2s. 6d., Auldearn, £2 7s., Ardensier, £3 13s. 2d., Clunas, 13s. 6d., Feorness, £1 15s. 6½d., Geddes, £1 12s., Balcray, 12s., Ardclach, £1 8s., Croy £2 19s., Delniess, 18s. 4d., Magness, £3 1s. 6d., Donations, £1 13s. 5½d. (less expenses, £4 5s.), per Miss Blanc, Hon. Sec.	39	10	0
Hereford W.S.S. further donation per Hon. Treas., Miss Hancock	5	0	
Glasgow W.S.S. per Miss M. C. Morrison, Hon. Treas.: Collection at meeting, £22 5s., Mrs. and Miss Maclean, £5, Mrs. H. Lethbridge-Abell, £2, Miss D. Spence Allan, £2, Blythswood Nursing Home, £2, Lady Burnet, £1, Miss Macnaught, £1, Cake guessing competition, per Miss C. M. McGregor, 10s., Miss Forrest, 10s., Miss J. E. Forrest, 10s., Miss E. Toms, 10s., Mrs. Horsburgh, 10s., Miss C. P. Whyte, 5s., Miss Kate Spencer, 5s., Miss Margaret Morrison, 5s., Miss Nellie Maclean, 3s., Miss Eliz. MacLennan, 2s., Mrs. Clocher, 1s., Miss M. G. Lindsay, £1, J. Carey, Esq., 2s. 6d., Miss M. McFadzen, £1 1s., Miss Young, 11s. 6d., A Friend, 2s. 6d.	42	3	6
Miss J. M. Henchley	2	0	
Mrs. Bernard Taylor Knowle, per Mrs. Davies, Hon. Sec. Solihull W.S.S.	2	6	
Mrs. Dorothy Watts per Mrs. Davies, Hon. Sec. Solihull W.S.S.	2	0	
Kilmarnock W.S.S. per Miss Stevenson, Hon. Treas.	8	0	0
Miss Butcher	6	4	
Miss E. Nicol	10	0	
Miss Jessie Sprunt	1	0	0
"Anon." Oxford	1	0	0
Miss E. M. Hiley	3	0	
Kettering W.S.S. per Mrs. J. S. Scott, Hon. Sec.	1	19	9
Malvern W.S.S. per Miss B. Alder, Hon. Treas.	25	0	0
Redhill, Reigate, and District W.S.S. per Mrs. Auerbach, Hon. Treas.	1	1	0
Mrs. Lilian M. Law	00	0	0
Per Dr. Eliz. Sloan Chesser (Miss Bayley, 1s., Miss M. Bradley, £2 2s., Miss Scrivener, £1, Mrs. E. Trotman, 2s., Miss St. Clair, 10s. 6d., Miss Mackae, 5s., Miss Mary Pollock, 5s., "Three Mackenzies," 3s., Mrs. S. A. Morris and daughters, 3s., Miss E. M. Fraser, £1)	5	11	6
Castle Douglas W.S.S. per Mrs. Campbell, Hon. Treas. (further donation)	1	0	0
Miss M. G. Carver	3	0	0
Miss E. B. Gordon	10	0	0
Mrs. D. Kerr	1	0	0
Miss Ina Jephson	2	0	0
Merioneth W.S.S. per Mrs. Webster, Hon. Treas.	4	15	6
Mrs. A. J. Robinson, per Dr. Ivens	1	1	0
Miss Ivens, per Dr. Ivens	1	1	0
Miss Sarah L. Joseph	10	0	
Mr. A. M. Bramston	2	0	0
Paisley W.S.S. per Miss Todd, Hon. Treas., to name 3rd Bed (Servia) "Paisley North District"	25	0	0
Miss Lorna S. Benison	10	0	
Church Stratton W.S.S. per Mrs. Harley, for the "Shropshire Suffragists'" Bed (further donation)	25	0	0
"Pilgrim"	2	2	0
Miss F. M. Wright	10	6	
"A." for Servia	10	0	
Mrs. G. L. Wilson	1	0	0
Per Dr. Louise McIlroy (Mrs. Pettigrew and Miss Glen, £5, Miss Jane C. Maclennan, £5 5s., Miss Mason, £1, Misses Tannahill, 5s., Mrs. Cairns, 5s., Miss Macdonald, 5s., Miss Frances Blake, 5s., Miss Sarah Young, 10s., Mrs. MacIntosh, 2s. 6d. [for Kitchen Car]; towards "Glasgow and W. of Scotland Registered Medical Women's Bed," Dr. Jessie Granger Evans, £10, Dr. Ina McNeill, £1)	23	17	6
Scottish Teachers' Fund for War Relief, per Hugh McCallum, Esq., M.A.	50	0	0
Mrs. Carpenter	1	0	0
Miss Frew	1	0	0
Miss Carbutt	2	2	0
	£7,118	3	7

Erratum in last list—From Professor Munro Kerr should read £5 5s., not £5.

ADDITIONAL LIST OF BEDS NAMED.

Name of Bed.	*Donor.*
The "Lumsden" Bed (omitted from previous list)	Miss L. I. Lumsden.
" "Castle-Douglas" Bed	Castle Douglas W.S.S.
" "London Society's" Bed	London Society for W.S.
" "Edinburgh Society's" Bed	Edinburgh Nat. Soc. for W.S.
" "Nairnshire" Bed	Nairn W.S.S.
" "St. Andrews" Beds (2) (for France and Serbia)	St. Andrews W.S.S. and Friends.
" "Denny" Bed	Colonel Denny.
" "Paisley North District" Bed (For Serbia) (3rd Bed named)	Paisley W.S.S.

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Some Useful Addresses.

Employment and Relief, &c.

Local Government Board—London, Edinburgh, and Dublin.

Prince of Wales's National Relief Fund—3, Queen Anne's Gate, S.W.

Central Committee on Women's Employment—Miss Mary Macarthur, 3, Grosvenor Place, S.W.

Government Committee, consisting entirely of women, to deal with questions of women's employment. The Committee will be prepared to give advice on any schemes for employment and as to the nature of work which can be done without dislocation of ordinary trade or interference with wages, hours, &c.

Queen's Work for Women Fund—Communications to Lady Roxburgh. Cheques, Mrs. Lionel de Rothschild, 33, Portland Place, W.

Government Sub-Committee for dealing with unemployment amongst professional people.—J. B. Beresford, Esq., Local Government Board, Whitehall, S.W.

Workers' National Committee—28, Victoria Street, S.W.

Represents the mass of organised Trade Unionist, Socialist, and Labour organisations throughout the country, and has appointed an Advisory Committee of representatives of wage-earning women to assist in devising suitable schemes of work.

National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies—*Sec.*, Miss Crookenden, M.A., Parliament Chambers, 14, Great Smith Street, S.W.

Has established: (1) A register of voluntary workers to supply associations requiring voluntary help. (2) Employment Bureau for those who are thrown out of work by the war. (3) Emergency workrooms, the menderies, and the toy-workrooms, where destitute women are given temporary work, and are trained for permanent employment. (4) Hospitality Department for registering and arranging for hospitality. (5) The National Union is also co-operating with the Women's Co-operative Guild for the establishment of Maternity Centres throughout the country, on the basis of the circular and memorandum issued by the L.G.B.

London Society for Women's Suffrage (N.U.W.S.S.)—*Sec.*, Miss Phillippa Strachey, 58, Victoria Street. Women's Service. Clearing House for voluntary workers, and information bureau. Also assisting Belgian refugees and establishing hostels. Workrooms for needlework and toy-making.

Women's Emergency Corps—Old Bedford College, Baker Street, W.

Voluntary workers classified, organised, and controlled to prevent overlapping and to safeguard the paid labour market. Industrial centre for organising paid employment.

Women's Freedom League—1, Robert Street, Adelphi. Workrooms for making children's clothing. "Soft-toy" workroom; a house for sick women and children, who, owing to London hospitals being crowded with wounded, cannot get admitted; a restaurant for 1d. and 1½d. vegetarian dinners for nursing mothers, &c.

East London Federation of Suffragettes—Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, 221, Roman Road, Bow, E.

Baby clinics, milk depôt, "cost-price" restaurant, toy-making industry, &c.

Professional Classes War Relief Council—*Hon. Secs.*, T. Chambers, Esq., A. Goddard, Esq., and Mrs. Gotto, 13 and 14, Princes Gate, S.W.

Organises assistance for the professional classes in matters of education, training, emigration, maternity aid, and temporary employment.

Press Contributors' Emergency Fund—*Sec.*, Miss Hall, care of N.U.W.S.S., 14, Great Smith Street, S.W.

To assist journalists who have lost their occupation owing to the war.

Middle Classes Co-operative League—Miss Geraldine O'Brien, 4, Duke Street, Adelphi, W.C.

For mitigating distress among professional and middle-class persons.

Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries—Miss C. Gordon, 12, Buckingham Street, Strand.

War Emergency Fund (same address).

Women's Co-operative Guild—28, Church Row, Hampstead, N.W.

Making a determined effort to get Maternity Centres started all over the country.

British Dominions Overseas Women's Suffrage Union—Miss Harriet Newcomb, care of International Women's Franchise Club, 9, Grafton Street, W.

Has issued an appeal to the women and girls in the Dominions Overseas, to make children's garments.

SCHEMES FOR SOCIAL WELFARE AMONGST WOMEN AND GIRLS.

National Organisation of Girls' Clubs—118, Great Titchfield Street, W.

Girl Guides—116, Victoria Street, S.W. (Head Office).

League of Honour—Mrs. Porter, 6, York Buildings, Adelphi, W.C.

CHRISTIANITY AND THE WAR.

A Conference for Teachers will be held at the Caxton Hall, Victoria Street, London, S.W., on January 8th & 9th, 1915.

PROGRAMME.

FRIDAY, January 8th, 7.30 p.m. — Devotional Meeting, conducted by The Rev. W. TEMPLE.

SATURDAY, January 9th, 10 - 12.30—"*The Problem*," Miss MAUDE ROYDEN.

SATURDAY, January 9th, 1.30 - 4—*Work in Schools.*

(a) "*The Inculcation of a Christian Temper at this time.*"—Miss A. de SELINCOURT.

(b) "*Educational Methods and the Training of Character.*"—The Rev. W. TEMPLE.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS.

THE LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE (N.U.W.S.S.) Clearing House for Voluntary Workers and Information Bureau, 58, Victoria-street, S.W. Donations for the Society's Women's Service Fund urgently needed by the Treasurer, Honble. Mrs. Spencer Graves.

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Cheques to be made payable to the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Auerbach, crossed London County and Westminster Bank, and sent to the N.U.W.S.S., Parliament Chambers, 14, Great Smith Street, London, S.W.

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Some Useful Addresses.

Employment and Relief, &c.

Local Government Board—London, Edinburgh, and Dublin.

Prince of Wales's National Relief Fund—3, Queen Anne's Gate, S.W.

Central Committee on Women's Employment—Miss Mary Macarthur, 8, Grosvenor Place, S.W.

Government Committee, consisting entirely of women, to deal with questions of women's employment. The Committee will be prepared to give advice on any schemes for employment and as to the nature of work which can be done without dislocation of ordinary trade or interference with wages, hours, &c.

Queen's Work for Women Fund—Communications to Lady Roxburgh. Cheques, Mrs. Lionel de Rothschild, 33, Portland Place, W.

Government Sub-Committee for dealing with unemployment amongst professional people.—J. B. Beresford, Esq., Local Government Board, Whitehall, S.W.

Workers' National Committee—28, Victoria Street, S.W.

Represents the mass of organised Trade Unionist, Socialist, and Labour organisations throughout the country, and has appointed an Advisory Committee of representatives of wage-earning women to assist in devising suitable schemes of work.

National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies—*Sec.*, Miss Crookenden, M.A., Parliament Chambers, 14, Great Smith Street, S.W.

Has established: (1) A register of voluntary workers to supply associations requiring voluntary help. (2) Employment Bureau for those who are thrown out of work by the war. (3) Emergency workrooms, the menderies, and the toy-workrooms, where destitute women are given temporary work, and are trained for permanent employment. (4) Hospitality Department for registering and arranging for hospitality. (5) The National Union is also co-operating with the Women's Co-operative Guild for the establishment of Maternity Centres throughout the country, on the basis of the circular and memorandum issued by the L.G.B.

London Society for Women's Suffrage (N.U.W.S.S.)—*Sec.*, Miss Phillippa Strachey, 58, Victoria Street.

Women's Service. Clearing House for voluntary workers, and information bureau. Also assisting Belgian refugees and establishing hostels. Workrooms for needlework and toy-making.

Women's Emergency Corps—Old Bedford College, Baker Street, W.

Voluntary workers classified, organised, and controlled to prevent overlapping and to safeguard the paid labour market. Industrial centre for organising paid employment.

Women's Freedom League—1, Robert Street, Adelphi.

Workrooms for making children's clothing. "Soft-toy" workroom; a house for sick women and children, who, owing to London hospitals being crowded with wounded, cannot get admitted; a restaurant for 1d. and 1½d. vegetarian dinners for nursing mothers, &c.

East London Federation of Suffragettes—Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, 221, Roman Road, Bow, E.

Baby clinics, milk depôt, "cost-price" restaurant, toy-making industry, &c.

Professional Classes War Relief Council—*Hon. Secs.*, T. Chambers, Esq., A. Goddard, Esq., and Mrs. Gotto, 13 and 14, Princes Gate, S.W.

Organises assistance for the professional classes in matters of education, training, emigration, maternity aid, and temporary employment.

Press Contributors' Emergency Fund—*Sec.*, Miss Hall, care of N.U.W.S.S., 14, Great Smith Street, S.W.

To assist journalists who have lost their occupation owing to the war.

Middle Classes Co-operative League—Miss Geraldine O'Brien, 4, Duke Street, Adelphi, W.C.

For mitigating distress among professional and middle-class persons.

Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries—Miss C. Gordon, 12, Buckingham Street, Strand.

War Emergency Fund (same address).

Women's Co-operative Guild—28, Church Row, Hampstead, N.W.

Making a determined effort to get Maternity Centres started all over the country.

British Dominions Overseas Women's Suffrage Union—Miss Harriet Newcomb, care of International Women's Franchise Club, 9, Grafton Street, W.

Has issued an appeal to the women and girls in the Dominions Overseas, to make children's garments.

SCHEMES FOR SOCIAL WELFARE AMONGST WOMEN AND GIRLS.

National Organisation of Girls' Clubs—118, Great Titchfield Street, W.

Girl Guides—116, Victoria Street, S.W. (Head Office).

League of Honour—Mrs. Porter, 6, York Buildings, Adelphi, W.C.

CHRISTIANITY AND THE WAR.

A Conference for Teachers will be held at the Caxton Hall, Victoria Street, London, S.W., on January 8th & 9th, 1915.

PROGRAMME.

FRIDAY, January 8th, 7.30 p.m.—Devotional Meeting, conducted by The Rev. W. TEMPLE.

SATURDAY, January 9th, 10–12.30—*"The Problem."* Miss MAUDE ROYDEN.

SATURDAY, January 9th, 1.30–4—*Work in Schools.*

(a) "The Inculcation of a Christian Temper at this time."—Miss A. de SELINCOURT.

(b) "Educational Methods and the Training of Character."—The Rev. W. TEMPLE.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS.

THE LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE (N.U.W.S.S.) Clearing House for Voluntary Workers and Information Bureau, 58, Victoria-street, S.W. Donations for the Society's Women's Service Fund urgently needed by the Treasurer, Honble. Mrs. Spencer Graves.

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